

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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SEVEN O'CLOCK, A. M.

Arrival of the Steamship Ohio.

The steamship Ohio, Lieut. Schenck, command-

er, arrived at this port this morning, about seven

o'clock, from Chongres and Havana. She brings

the mail from California. She brings later news

from Havana, which will be published in our

Evening Edition.

THE MEXICAN CLAIMS—THE FLORIDA CLAIMS—

DANGER OF ANOTHER GALPIN BUSINESS.—The

decision of the Commissioners on Mexican claims,

recently announced in Washington, has created a

great stir in certain quarters, among the unfor-

tunate applicants who have been disappointed; and

we are inundated with letters of expostulation and

explanation, as to the causes, secret and otherwise,

corrupt and of all kinds, which have produced these

strange results. These claims amounted originally

to seven millions of dollars, but were reduced to

three millions and a half. Many of the claimants

who have been disappointed, are threatening to

hold public meetings in various quarters, and to

present petitions and expositions concerning the

matter, to the next Congress. Some of the articles

which we have, in the shape of letters from Wash-

ington, accuse men high in office of the most un-

heard of and culpable practices in the matter of

these claims. We shall wait till we see further into

this matter, before we indulge in more remarks.

The reading public must have noticed that within

the last few weeks sundry paragraphs have been in

circulation, commendatory of the delicacy of Mr.

Secretary Corwin in absolving himself from the

cabinet until a claim in which he was personally

interested, to the amount of many thousands of dol-

lars, should be decided.

The last touch is the following paragraph, which

we find in one of the city papers:—

"The question of interest on the Florida claims, which

has so long engaged the attention of the cabinet, is

yet pending. Mr. Corwin has not yet taken his seat in

the cabinet until the matter is determined, he having

acted as counsel in certain of these cases, before taking office."

We advise Mr. Corwin not to have this claim

settled whilst he is in the cabinet, nor even any one

of the class of claims of which this is a part. A

precedent should not be set, under the influence of

the fact that a member of the cabinet is interested.

If it is done, he may—so the other members making

the allowance may—seek to excuse himself, as was

sought in the Galpin case; but the people will say

it is a second Galpin affair, and will not listen to

his explanations.

We have heard something of these Florida

claims, and have been furnished a copy of a list of

the allowances since 1834, which paper, although it

is a long document, we may publish hereafter, with

names of attorneys, and amounts claimed, and

amounts allowed and paid in full. The claims are

mostly for losses sustained in 1812-13, &c., by the

Floridians, from the operations of the American

troops that invaded those provinces, and are a

curious and interesting batch. Between one and

two millions of dollars, we believe, have been al-

lowed and paid under an act of Congress passed in

1834, though no subsequent appropriation has been

passed by Congress. It is now sought to get the

interest paid—whether from 1812, when the specu-

lations were committed; or from 1821, when the

Florida treaty (by which the United States, it is

said, agreed to pay for them) was made; or from 1834,

when the act of Congress was passed authorizing

their examination and payment, we are not advised.

These claims should have been justly settled, and if

they have not been, Congress should yet direct it.

Congress is the proper tribunal, and not the Treas-

ury Department; and if we mistake not, the sub-

ject of interest has been before Congress heretofore,

as it respects these very claims. Mr. Corwin's position

is one of the evil effects attendant on the practice of

members of Congress being engaged in the prosecu-

tion of claims against the United States. It is a

corrupt and corrupting practice, and we have heard

of instances that deserve exposure. A member of

Congress should be expelled who allows himself to

be employed in a claim before the departments or

Congress, as an agent or attorney, or who becomes

a purchaser of a claim, or who becomes interested

in the subject matter of a law before Congress—such

as a contract for land to be purchased by the United

States, or the building of a custom house, &c.

Music and the Opera.

With the warm breath of spring, will come in along

the Atlantic sea-board, the melodious music of all the

artists who are now in this country. The first sunny day,

after a week of rain and storm, invited the lovers of

Mr. McKean Buchanan, the Tragician.

We place in our columns, from the Pittsburgh Journal,

some extracts respecting the recent dramatic triumphs

of Mr. Buchanan, who has been in the theatrical

profession only about a year, and yet, in that time, has risen

to such distinction as gives promise of a career

of the highest eventual elevation. In the course

of the past winter he has been in the great cities of

the Southern States, where we have watched his progress

with more than ordinary interest, because we are well

satisfied that he is yet destined to shine very conspicuously

in the annals of the stage. In Mobile, according to the

Journal, his Hamlet, Othello and King Lear were perfor-

mances of the highest merit. He opened we remember

the Louisville theatre, two or three months ago, and

commanded brilliant successes for his Othello, Shylock

and Mr. Giles Overreach, which was repeated again

and again. In Cincinnati, in a wide range of Shakespeare

characters, similar success attended his efforts; and in

the tragedy of "Cædmon," which he received from an Ameri-

can dramatist as a prophetic token of what the young

tragician was destined to accomplish, has been produced

with the most complete success in New Orleans, Mobile,

Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. In the latter city, Mr. Bu-

chanan was re-engaged to repeat it, and he appears to

have created in that rôle no ordinary enthusiasm. At

New Orleans, Miss Buchanan herself engaged Mr. Bu-

chanan, also, we believe, to perform Macbeth, and several

other difficult characters, which he accomplished in a

highly gratifying manner to the public and to our Ameri-

can dramatists. In fact, the success of Mr. Buchanan

has been so unequivocal and so decided, that he has in-

gained a reputation in the South and West, at all the

principal theatres in the South and West.

Certainly, these evidences are sufficient to prove that

Mr. Buchanan has made very rapid progress, and we

shall look to see him again before the public in this

metropolis, where such talents as his must command

attention and lead him at last to a high position. The

tragedy of "Cædmon" ought to be brought out during

his engagement, with fair advantages from scenery

and from the performers generally. The Bowery Theatre

has a company, and every applicant, besides a manager

capable of understanding its scenic demands, and either

there or at the Broadway—very profitable and gratifying

equal to the task—very profitable and gratifying

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The Modern Hat.—The discussion on this

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